CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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FRANCE, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Working paper
on the programme of work of the Conference

A. DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION

After having identified agenda item 1 entitled "Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and Nuclear Disarmament" as being of an extremely high priority, and in the light of the intensive consultations on this item held by successive Presidents in the course of 1998 following the President's Declaration made on 26 March 1998 (CD/1500), the President concluded that it was essential substantially to intensify such consultations under his authority by using all possibilities, including the assistance of the outgoing and the incoming Presidents, in a strengthened, more structured and more transparent way, with a view to reaching consensus on how to deal with this item, taking into account current efforts and all existing proposals and views.

The Presidency is thus willing to continue to consider agenda item 1 as its first priority and substantially to intensify its vigorous efforts in this respect, including:

a) by consulting on ways and means of establishing an exchange of information and views within the Conference on endeavours towards nuclear disarmament;

b) by holding informal open-ended consultations at least once during each Presidency;

c) by consulting with delegations, including those which have made proposals in respect of agenda item 1, during each Presidency;

d) and by presenting interim reports on these consultations at the end of each Presidency and a final report before the conclusion of the 1999 session.

B. DRAFT DECISION ON THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Conference on Disarmament takes the following decisions:

1. To re-establish, for the duration of the 1999 session, the Ad Hoc Committee under agenda item 4 entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons", to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. These agreements could take the form of an internationally legally-binding instrument.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall take into consideration all relevant views and proposals present and future and also address questions related to its mandate.

The Ad Hoc Committee will report to the Conference on the progress of work before the conclusion of the 1999 session.

2. To re-establish, under item 1 of the agenda entitled "Cessation of t nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", the Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate, the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mand contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall immediately commence negotiations with a view their early conclusion; it shall meet in successive sessions of the Confere until its work is completed, without the need for annual reauthorization. Committee shall submit periodic reports to the Conference, including an inte report at the end of each session and a final report transmitting the text of draft treaty.

3. That the Presidency, taking into account the statement (CD/....) made by President at the .... plenary meeting on .... 1999, shall substantially intens consultations and seek the views of its Members on appropriate methods approaches for dealing with agenda item 1, entitled "Cessation of the nuclear a race and nuclear disarmament", taking into consideration all proposals and vi on this item, and report at the end of each Presidency including a final rep before the conclusion of the 1999 session.

4. To re-appoint a Special Coordinator under agenda item 3 entitled "Prevent of an arms race in outer space" to seek the views of its Members on the m appropriate way to deal with the questions related to this item.

5. To re-appoint a Special Coordinator under agenda item 6 entit "Comprehensive programme of disarmament" to seek the views of its Members on most appropriate way to deal with the questions related to anti-personnel landmi taking into account, *inter alia*, developments outside the Conference.

6. To re-appoint a Special Coordinator under agenda item 7 entit "Transparency in armaments" to seek the views of its Members on the m appropriate way to deal with the questions related to this item.

7. In implementing these decisions, the Special Coordinators shall take i consideration all relevant views and proposals, present and future, and pres early and regular reports on the outcome of their consultations throughout session.

8. The taking of these decisions contained in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 does prejudge the positions of delegations on, or the eventual establishment of, furt subsidiary bodies on the issues identified, but reflects agreement to advance Conference's work with a view to reaching consensus. This decision is also ta without prejudice to the rights of Members of the Conference to move forward w positions and proposals already made or to be put forward in the future.

9. The Conference also decides to re-appoint Special Coordinators on the Rev of its Agenda, the Expansion of its Membership and its Improved and Effect Functioning. These Special Coordinators, in discharging their duties functions, will take into account all proposals and views, as well as fut initiatives. The Conference requests these Special Coordinators to report to before the conclusion of the 1999 session.